

PRESS RELEASE

For Information Contact: Joan Mier/342-3171

AGENCIES SIGN COST AGREEMENT FOR FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT

A Project Cost Agreement (PCA) for a project that will alleviate flood damage in the South Valley area of Albuquerque between Gun Club Rd. and I-25 was signed by the Corps of Engineers' Albuquerque District , Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority (AMAFCA), and Bernalillo County. The \$7.69 million Black Mesa Project is in the first stages of the design phase with a scheduled start date of May 2005, according to Pete Doles, project manager. The Project Management Plan (PMP) estimates that construction will be completed 16 months after the start date. \$1 million of the money allocated has been received to complete planning and design for the project.

New construction will consolidate and convey storm drainage from existing AMAFCA dams, Don Felipe, Raymac, and McCoy, to a new pump station to be located in the vicinity of the I-25 bridge over the Rio Grande. The Los Padillas Drain will be rebuilt to accommodate increased storm drainage, and a new outlet to release floodwaters to the Rio Grande will also be built downstream of the pump station.

“This project will help alleviate the ponding that occurs in the South Valley due to the

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inadequate storm drain facilities,” Doles said. More efficient conveyance of the storm drainage will reduce the instances of contamination of the wells and increase the quality of waters reentering the Rio Grande from the valley.

Black Mesa is a cooperative project authorized by section 593 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999. All new construction will be done on existing easements, right of ways, and properties owned by The Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, Bernalillo County, and the City of Albuquerque.